



# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

4050 Crums Mill Road, Suite 203 · Harrisburg, PA 17112

(717) 787-3904 · (717) 782-4011 FAX · [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

Week Ending July 31, 2011

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**Excellent Week for Field Work:** Pennsylvania had an average of 6 days suitable for field work. The Keystone state experienced some welcomed change in the weather last week. Some very much needed showers fell around the state which hopefully will go some ways towards revitalizing the ailing crops in some of the states drier areas. Many producers were glad to receive the precipitation, but are hoping for more of it in the coming weeks to aide in maturing the later planted crops. Primary field activities for the week included spreading manure and fertilizer on hay fields, harvesting oats, early apples, and peaches.

### PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending July 31, 2011

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
32	46	22	0

**Crop Progress:** Corn in the silk stage is at 75% compared to 86% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 76%. Corn is 12% at the dough stage, behind the 20% a year ago and the 5-year average of 15%. Corn has reached a measurable height of 71 inches, compared to 78 inches last year, and an average of 74 inches. Oats are 91% yellow compared to last year's 97% and the average of 92%. Oats are 53% ripe, behind the 90% at this time last year and the average of 66%. Oat harvest is 28% complete, compared to last year's 62% and the average of 35%. The third cutting of alfalfa is 53% complete, compared to the 61% last year and the 5-year average of 38%. Timothy/Clover second cutting is 59% complete, behind last year's 78%, and about the same as the 5-year average of 51%. Peach harvesting is 27% complete, compared to 45% at this time last year and the average of 35%. Apple harvesting is 17% complete about the same as the 17% last year, but ahead of the average of 13%.

**Crop Condition:** State-wide corn conditions are; 8% very poor, 23% poor, 39% fair, 23 % good, and 7% excellent. Oats conditions are; 4% very poor, 21% poor, 38% fair, 34% good, and 3% excellent. Soybean conditions are; 2% very poor, 12% poor, 40% fair, 36% good, and 10% excellent. Quality of Hay made is 1% very poor, 4% poor, 30% fair, 39% good, and 26% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 36% very poor, 22% poor, 30% fair, 11% good and 1% excellent. Peach conditions are; 0% very poor, 0% poor, 7% fair, 49% good and 44% excellent. Apple conditions are; 0% very poor, 13% poor, 17% fair, 51% good and 19% excellent.

**Nationwide as of July 24, 2011:** Temperatures across much of the United States soared well above average, as a sweltering heat wave continued to dominate many of the major crop growing regions. Temperatures averaged as much as 12°F above normal in the Corn Belt, causing corn and soybean condition ratings to

decline as many fields reached the reproductive stage of development. Elsewhere, increased rainfall provided some needed moisture to areas of the Delta and Southeast during the week, aiding crop development and boosting soil moisture levels. **Corn:** By week's end, 65 percent of this year's corn crop was at or beyond the silking stage, 17 percentage points behind last year and 4 points behind the 5-year average. Double-digit silking progress was evident in most of the major producing region. Nine percent of the nation's corn crop was at or beyond the dough stage by July 24, seven percentage points behind last year and 3 points behind the 5-year average. Overall, 62 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 4 percentage points from last week and 10 points below the same time last year. Despite cooler weather and increased rainfall in portions of the northern and western Corn Belt, hot, dry weather in many of the major production areas negatively impacted reproductive corn. **Soybeans:** Nationally, 60 percent of the soybean crop was blooming by July 24, thirteen percentage points behind last year and 8 points behind the 5-year average. With the exception of Louisiana and Mississippi, where blooming was nearing completion, progress of 14 percentage points or more was evident across the 18 estimating states during the week. By week's end, 16 percent of this year's crop was setting pods, 16 percentage points behind last year and 11 points behind the 5-year average. Pod set was behind both last year and normal in all estimating states except Louisiana and North Carolina. Overall, 62 percent of the soybean crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 2 percentage points from last week and 5 points below the same time last year. In Iowa, producers treated many fields due to an increase in insect populations. **Winter Wheat:** By July 24, three-quarters of this year's winter wheat crop was harvested, 3 percentage points behind last year and 5 points behind the 5-year average. While harvest was complete or nearly complete throughout much of the major producing region, farmers across the nation's northern tier were just beginning to combine their fields. Despite warm weather aiding a rapid crop maturation during the week, harvest in Montana remained 17 percentage points behind normal. **Small Grains:** Ninety-five percent of the oat crop was at or beyond the heading stage by July 24, four percentage points behind both last year and the 5-year average. Heading was complete or nearly complete in all estimating states except North Dakota. By week's end, producers had harvested 20 percent of the nation's crop, 10 percentage points behind last year and 6 points behind the 5-year average. Overall, 56 percent of the oat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 3 percentage points from last week and 22 points below the same time last year. Hot, mostly dry weather in the Ohio Valley contributed to at least a 10-point decline in condition ratings during the week.

### Weather Data For Week Ending July 31, 2011

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - July 31, 2011					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	85	58	76	5	0.26	3	18.23	4.03	60	1,751	327	2,817
Franklin_AG	90	55	74	4	2.72	4	20.27	3.46	65	1,775	418	2,850
Meadville-Port	89	57	76	8	1.22	5	20.16	4.07	70	1,809	571	2,880
Mercer	88	57	75	5	1.56	5	20.40	4.46	77	1,751	406	2,848
Springboro	87	51	72	2	0.85	4	19.43	5.19	68	1,539	110	2,579
Warren	89	56	73	4	0.34	3	18.11	1.58	61	1,614	295	2,676
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	86	50	70	6	0.32	3	21.33	4.55	69	1,381	421	2,385
Oswayo	92	46	70	4	1.00	3	18.29	2.22	60	1,382	312	2,406
Kane	88	47	69	4	0.89	3	22.78	5.94	58	1,321	374	2,338
Laporte	84	57	71	2	0.62	3	28.44	12.72	65	1,476	117	2,508
Lock Haven	95	57	76	6	2.33	4	18.06	2.72	55	1,943	502	3,049
Port Allegany	88	54	72	6	0.90	4	19.82	3.75	62	1,487	417	2,517
Renovo	93	55	75	5	1.78	3	20.62	5.28	64	1,882	441	2,982
Ridgway	92	50	72	6	1.41	2	17.80	0.69	61	1,500	426	2,556
Stevenson Dam	95	54	75	9	0.67	2	19.73	2.62	55	1,776	702	2,857
Towanda	88	57	73	4	1.19	3	24.09	11.06	53	1,691	321	2,766
Wellsboro	90	53	71	6	0.59	2	18.88	5.71	62	1,456	442	2,474
Williamsport	93	60	77	5	1.67	3	23.37	7.98	53	2,056	456	3,186
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	87	57	71	4	1.56	3	26.07	11.45	57	1,499	343	2,561
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	89	58	75	3	1.53	4	19.99	5.60	60	1,882	362	2,993
Susquehanna	86	57	72	5	3.17	4	23.20	7.54	59	1,584	473	2,649
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	88	57	74	4	1.64	4	17.53	1.77	63	1,812	402	2,927
New Castle	95	57	77	7	2.03	4	19.98	5.41	64	1,961	542	3,078
Slippery Rock	91	55	75	6	1.42	5	18.32	2.90	61	1,804	527	2,912
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	94	58	77	6	2.28	4	16.47	2.15	51	2,051	527	3,176
DuBois	88	52	73	5	2.19	4	19.75	3.90	62	1,689	373	2,764
Lewistown	95	60	77	4	1.60	4	21.05	5.61	50	2,070	399	3,210
Middletown	96	66	80	5	3.03	2	23.87	8.93	47	2,292	404	3,465
Prince Gallitzi	90	52	73	5	1.24	4	15.04	-3.22	54	1,703	498	2,771
Selinsgrove	93	60	76	4	1.68	3	21.82	6.44	60	1,942	381	3,062
State College	90	61	75	4	1.56	4	16.95	2.75	49	1,954	448	3,060
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	91	64	78	5	2.55	3	19.06	3.45	50	2,135	407	3,286
Lehighton	88	61	75	2	3.24	3	21.46	5.80	55	1,852	191	2,982
Matamoras	86	58	72	0	2.32	5	25.58	9.21	59	1,603	101	2,695
MT_Pocono	87	58	72	6	1.12	5	25.23	8.16	60	1,578	568	2,644
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	92	65	78	8	1.47	2	15.54	0.39	65	2,142	611	3,294
Indiana_PA	90	55	74	4	1.84	5	20.34	2.73	76	1,882	409	2,998
Myersdale	88	52	71	1	0.37	4	18.66	1.41	63	1,436	45	2,507
Chalk_Hill	88	54	72	-1	1.03	3	30.00	13.18	70	1,497	-139	2,581
Pittsburgh Intl	92	61	78	6	0.62	2	14.71	0.51	57	2,095	491	3,243
Connellsville	90	61	76	5	1.46	4	20.61	3.79	77	1,997	361	3,142
Waynesburg	91	61	76	6	0.48	2	28.06	12.59	62	1,894	416	3,038
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	97	63	79	4	2.20	2	20.01	6.30	45	2,187	333	3,345
Everett	95	57	75	4	0.95	4	20.11	6.27	52	1,798	303	2,924
Hanover	97	60	78	4	0.15	2	14.28	0.57	46	2,164	310	3,316
Harrisburg_AP	97	64	80	4	2.80	2	21.73	6.79	43	2,287	392	3,458
South Mountain	95	56	75	4	0.22	3	16.36	2.04	52	1,787	270	2,901
York	94	60	77	3	3.11	3	18.76	3.55	49	2,165	318	3,334
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	93	64	78	6	2.08	3	17.08	1.78	50	2,143	498	3,301
Hamburg	92	62	78	7	3.04	4	18.85	0.64	54	2,124	630	3,270
West_Chester	97	62	80	5	2.07	2	13.48	-3.60	38	2,176	342	3,337
Lancaster	95	65	80	6	0.64	3	17.71	1.83	49	2,226	494	3,388
Neshaminy Falls	95	64	79	6	0.97	4	16.60	-1.26	40	2,259	539	3,420
New Holland	96	62	79	5	0.65	3	16.98	1.10	49	2,196	464	3,349
Philadelphia	98	72	83	6	0.61	3	12.46	-2.93	39	2,592	602	3,780
Philadelphia NE	98	68	81	5	2.47	5	15.93	0.54	42	2,412	422	3,593
Reading	95	63	81	7	1.64	4	16.60	-0.21	53	2,352	655	3,528
Sellersville	91	62	77	4	1.30	3	17.67	2.37	49	2,002	357	3,140
Doylestown_AG	92	66	79	5	2.63	4	17.50	-0.36	47	2,249	529	3,419

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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## REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County

*Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.*

### **ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A Behney**

Adams County had some thunderstorms to start the week on Monday. Some areas received significant rainfall with 2" while other areas of the county received 0.2". Wednesday was lower humidity and sunny into the 80's and Thursday was cloudy all day with higher humidity and in the 80's. Rain showers started early evening with most areas receiving some rain and York Springs area had 1/2 inch. The county is still pretty dry but the showers we received this week were welcomed by producers. Corn and soybeans continue to grow with recent showers. The crops are still showing signs of lack of moisture and high temperatures we had the past few weeks without rainfall. Producers will probably have an early corn silage harvest this year if it stays dry. Hay continues to be made and oats fields will soon be harvested but are short in height. Fruit crops continue to progress and irrigation are taking place throughout the county. Producers are concerned though ponds are not recharging for future irrigation needs. Early apples and peaches are being harvested. Peaches seem to have good flavor this year. Vegetables are also being harvested throughout the county. Overall, the farmers are hoping for some additional rainfall to help all of the crops in the county but they are looking ok in most cases.

### **BUCKS COUNTY, Austin Drager**

The area got some much needed rain beginning of last week.

### **BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier**

We had two significant rain events last week. Monday brought less than an inch in some parts of the county to three inches in other areas. Friday saw two lines of thunderstorms pass through. Without that rain, this year was shaping up to be a complete disaster. The corn that tasselled prior to the 100 degree days of two weeks ago looks good. Other, younger stands have not fared so well. Soybeans, for the most part, look like they will make an average crop. Very little second cutting grass hay was made due to lack of rain.

### **CENTRE COUNTY, Timothy Craul**

Spotty rain has helped some areas and left others dry. Crop conditions seem to be based on how early corn and beans were planted and if the root system could take advantage of deep soil moisture. The highly variable rainfall has increased the range of crop production from very poor to good. There appears to be little corn in the excellent productivity range in Central PA.

### **CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker**

Received some much needed rain during the week (1 7/8 inch). Stressed corn will not recover.

### **COLUMBIA COUNTY, John O Yocum**

Received 1.25" rain. Reduced drought symptoms for 5 days, but symptoms are returning.

### **DAUPHIN COUNTY, Eugene Sweigard**

We got some much needed rain.

### **FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr**

One shower this week did little to help the drought. Heat is more of problem with the corn that is now trying to pollinate. Saw a couple of fields being chopped as grower decided there would be no chance of grain developing. Early planted corn looks the best. Pastures and hay are a lost cause for now. Peaches are continuing to be harvested and yield is normal with good flavor.

### **INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff**

Well this week we got some much needed rain. On this past Monday we got .70" and then on Thursday we got 1.70". Now if we keep getting a little each week the corn, soybeans and grass might have a decent come back. Weather looks good this week. Have about 30 acres of oats to cut. Hope everyone has a safe and productive farming week.

### **LEBANON COUNTY, Charlene Zeigler**

Rain fell over Lebanon County on Monday and Thursday. Amounts varied from .2 of an inch to 2 inches. Areas with lesser amounts may not have had enough to benefit the corn but there is hope that the soybean crop had enough to sustain it until the next rain. In the dryer areas it was found that within a corn field there are varying degrees of growth. There are stalks with large ears, and then patches with stalks that are tasseled but no silk, to dried out stalks. Alfalfa 3rd cutting will yield less crop if any at all.

### **MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust**

We received much needed rain this week 1.6 inches and the crops are showing some improvement. The local produce auction is finally having a nice selection of fruits and vegetables and will be open four days a week starting Aug 1st. Wheat harvest is complete with many low yields being reported. Oats harvesting has just begun and most yields reported are low also.

### **SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer**

Light showers during the week didn't help the deteriorating crops as a result of the heat and dry soil conditions. Oats harvest is near completion and the yield was far below normal. The third cutting of hay is at a standstill. The activities for the week were haymaking, baling straw and spraying.

### **UNION COUNTY, James Brubaker**

What a difference a week and 3.5" of rain makes. Corn and beans both grew a lot this past week, and now look like they could make a good crop. The early planted corn will have some damage from the dry weather, but the later planted is just now pushing tassel and will pollinate with adequate moisture. We still need more rain to finish the crop, but this present moisture will move the crop along toward a good harvest.

### **WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr**

Several days with substantial widespread rain brought relief from the dry conditions. Alfalfa, corn, and soybeans responded positively. Most of the corn is pollinating so the week's moisture was much needed.

### **YORK COUNTY, John Rowehl**

Rain still comes only in scattered t-storms. Stinkbugs are becoming more noticeable.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending July 31, 2011**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, silk	75	86	76
Corn, dough	12	20	15
Corn average height, inches	71	78	74
Oats, turning yellow	91	97	92
Oats, ripe	53	90	66
Oats, harvested	28	62	35
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	53	61	38
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	59	78	51
Peaches, harvested	27	45	35
Apples, harvested	17	17	13

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending July 31, 2011**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	8	23	39	23	7
Oats	4	21	38	34	3
Soybeans	2	12	40	36	10
Quality of hay made	1	4	30	39	26
Pasture	36	22	30	11	1
Peaches	0	0	7	49	44
Apples	0	13	17	51	19

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 Department of Agriculture  
 National Agricultural Statistics Service  
 Pennsylvania Field Office  
 4050 Crums Mill Road, Suite 203  
 Harrisburg PA 17112

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